

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member adapted to be used in a friction stir welding, comprising:

at an end portion of said hollow frame member adapted to be used in the friction stir welding, said hollow frame member has a raised portion which projects to an outer side in a thickness direction of said hollow frame member from one side face of said hollow frame member and is provided integrally on said end portion of said hollow frame member,

said raised portion of said hollow frame member is a portion adapted to have a rotary tool inserted therein so as to carry out thea friction stir welding, and

during thesaid friction stir welding, material of said raised portion of said hollow frame member fills any gaps, between said hollow frame member and another hollow frame member to be welded to said hollow frame member, which exist when said hollow frame member andabuts said another hollow frame member abut each other.

2. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member adapted to be used in a friction stir welding, comprising:

a first plate, a second plate which is substantially in parallel to said first plate, a third plate connecting said first plate and said second plate, and a raised portion integrally provided on an end portion of said first plate,

said raised portion projects to an outer side in a thickness direction of said first plate from one side face of said first plate,

said raised portion of said first plate is a portion adapted to have a rotary tool inserted therein so as to carry out thea friction stir welding, and during thesaid friction stir welding, material of said raised portion of said first plate fills any gaps, between said hollow frame member and another hollow frame member to be welded to said hollow frame member, which exist when said hollow frame member and said another hollow frame member abut each other.

3. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member according to claim 2, wherein:

at an end portion of said second plate, at a side of an end portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member having said raised portion, the hollow frame member has a further raised portion,

said further raised portion projects to an outer side in a thickness direction of said second plate from one side face of said second plate,

said further raised portion of said second plate is a portion adapted to have said a rotary tool inserted therein so as to carry out thea friction stir welding, and

during thesaid friction stir welding, material of said further raised portion of said second plate fills any gaps, between said hollow frame member and said another hollow frame member to be welded to said hollow frame member, which exist when said hollow frame member and said another hollow frame member abut each other.

4-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 3, wherein said first and second plates of said hollow frame member respectively have

exposed outer faces, and wherein said raised portion and said further raised portion respectively project beyond the exposed outer faces of the first and second plates in said thickness direction.

7. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 6, wherein said exposed outer faces are exposed during said friction stir welding.

8. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 6, wherein said thickness direction is a direction perpendicular to said exposed outer faces.

9. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 3, wherein said thickness direction is a direction perpendicular to said first plate.

10. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 2, wherein said first plate of said hollow frame member has an exposed outer face, and wherein said raised portion projects beyond the exposed outer face in said thickness direction.

11. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 10, wherein said exposed outer face is exposed during said friction stir welding.

12. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 10, wherein said thickness direction is a direction perpendicular to said exposed outer face.

13. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 2, wherein said thickness direction is a direction perpendicular to said first plate.

14. (Currently amended) A hollow frame member according to claim 1, wherein said one side face of said hollow frame member is adapted to be exposed during said friction stir welding.

15. (Currently amended) A hollow frame member according to claim 1, wherein said thickness direction is a direction perpendicular to said one side face.